

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
an operation panel which receives instruction of  
automatic edit processing of a plurality of  
5 photographic images;

a scanner unit which scans said plurality of  
photographic images and which outputs image information  
in accordance with the instruction of the automatic  
edit processing of said operation panel;

10 an extracting unit which extracts a position and a  
size of each of said plurality of photographic images  
on the basis of the image information output from said  
scanner unit in accordance with the instruction of said  
automatic edit processing; and

15 an image editing unit which outputs an edit image,  
in which said plurality of photographic images are laid  
out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the  
position and the size of each of said plurality of  
photographic images, which are detected by said  
20 extracting unit in accordance with the instruction of  
said automatic edit processing.

2. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said image editing unit enlarges or  
reduces the image information of said photographic  
25 image in accordance with said predetermined layout.

3. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said image editing unit enlarges or

reduces the image information of said photographic image in association with the layout selected and designated by said operation panel.

5           4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image editing unit adds image information of an illustration in addition to the image information of said photographic image and outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout.

10           5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image editing unit automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.

15           6. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
            an operation panel which receives instruction to automatic edit processing of a plurality of photographic images;

20           a scanner unit which scans said plurality of photographic images and which outputs image information in accordance with the instruction of the automatic edit processing of said operation panel;

25           an extracting unit which extracts a position and a size of each of said plurality of photographic images on the basis of the image information output from said scanner unit in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing;

an image editing unit which outputs an edit image,  
in which said plurality of photographic images are laid  
out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the  
position and the size of each of said plurality of  
5 photographic images detected by said extracting unit in  
accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit  
processing; and

a printer unit which is provided with the edit  
image from said image editing unit and which forms an  
10 image on an image forming medium on the basis of the  
supplied edit image.

7. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 6, wherein said image editing unit enlarges or  
reduces the image information of said photographic  
15 image in accordance with said predetermined layout.

8. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 6, wherein said image editing unit enlarges or  
reduces the image information of said photographic  
image in association with the layout selected and  
20 designated by said operation panel.

9. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 6, wherein said image editing unit adds image  
information of an illustration in addition to the image  
information of said photographic image and which  
25 outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of  
photographic images are laid out within a predetermined  
layout.

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image editing unit automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.

11. An image processing method comprising:  
an instructing step which receives instruction to automatic edit processing of a plurality of photographic images;  
10 a scan step which scans said plurality of photographic images and which outputs image information in accordance with the instruction of the automatic edit processing at said instructing step;  
an extracting step which extracts a position and a  
15 size of each of said plurality of photographic images on the basis of the image information output at said scan step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing; and  
an image editing step which outputs an edit image,  
20 in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the position and the size of each of said plurality of photographic images detected at said extracting step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit  
25 processing.

12. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said image editing step enlarges or

reduces the image information of said photographic image in accordance with said predetermined layout.

13. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said image editing step enlarges or  
5 reduces the image information of said photographic image in association with the layout selected and designated by said operation panel.

14. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein said image editing step adds image  
10 information of an illustration in addition to the image information of said photographic image and outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout.

15. An image forming method according to claim 11, wherein said image editing step automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.

16. An image forming method comprising:  
an instructing step which receives instruction of  
20 automatic edit processing of a plurality of photographic images;

a scan step which scans said plurality of photographic images and which outputs image information in accordance with the instruction of the automatic  
25 edit processing at said instructing step;

an extracting step which extracts a position and a size of each of said plurality of photographic images

on the basis of the image information output at said scan step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing;

5 an image editing step which outputs an edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout, on the basis of the position and the size of each of said plurality of photographic images detected at said extracting step in accordance with the instruction of said automatic edit processing; and

10 a printing step which is supplied the edit image from said image editing step and forms the image on the image forming medium on the basis of the supplied edit image.

15 17. An image forming method according to claim 16, wherein said image editing step enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image in accordance with said predetermined layout.

20 18. An image forming method according to claim 16, wherein said image editing step enlarges or reduces the image information of said photographic image with associating the image information of said photographic image with the layout selected and designated at said instructing step.

25 19. An image forming method according to claim 16, wherein said image editing step adds image information of an illustration in addition to the image information

of said photographic image and which outputs the edit image, in which said plurality of photographic images are laid out within a predetermined layout.

- 5        20. An image forming method according to claim 16, wherein said image editing step automatically detects inclination of the image information of said plurality of photographic images to correct the inclination.